



NASA/MSFC Retirees Association

NASA/MSFC Retiree Association P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, Alabama 35815



Quarterly MRA Social

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at The Ledges

Social & Registration: 6:00 p.m. – Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person

Menu: Garden Salad, Sliced Roast Turkey with Cornbread Dressing, Sweet Potato Casserole, Sauteed Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Southern Pecan Pie

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Friday, December 6, 2019**, at benniejacks@att.net or cell phone: 256-603-0894.

A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

Program: No speaker is scheduled to allow time for members to socialize and for storytelling.



From Parker's Desk.....

It has been my privilege to serve as your NASA/MSFC Retirees Association President for the last three years. At our December meeting we will be voting on new officers for the 2020-2022 term. Also, plans for a Space Exploration Memorial honoring the men and women who have worked at Marshall since its inception in 1960 will be presented, and members will have an opportunity to comment on the plans. Following the discussions, members will be asked to vote on the plan forward which will include fundraising activities for the project.

The association now has a fully functioning website which will contain the names of all the persons identified to date who have worked on space exploration. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website to verify their names, add biographical information, or identify programs/projects worked on. The website will also be the repository for our quarterly newsletters, how to become a member, and all pertinent association information.

As we move into a new year, I would encourage everyone to reach out to our peers and to engage with new retirees asking them to join with us as we celebrate the successes of our history and move forward to the exciting future of Marshall and all of NASA.

Parker Counts, MRA President



Schedule of MRA Meetings in 2020: Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – Luncheon

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – Dinner

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – Luncheon

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – Dinner

Space Exploration Memorial (Update)

In previous issues of this newsletter, information has been provided about the vision of MRA to create a Space Exploration Memorial, in concert with the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC). The memorial will contain engraved names of all federal employees who worked at Marshall beginning with the opening of the Center in 1960 through the present time. It will also contain the names of the companies that supported Marshall throughout its history. The memorial will be located at USSRC, where it can be visited by families, friends and the public. It will recognize the individuals and companies that have built the rockets and spacecraft on display at the USSRC.

A key element of the memorial is identification of names of all MSFC employees. A committee led by Sandra Turner and Gray Settle has been working to compile these names. **These names have been entered in a database which is now online on the MRA website(www.marshallretirees.org).** Please visit this website to verify that your information is correct and to add background information about your work and contributions. If you have specific questions regarding the database, contact Sandra Turner (sandraturner703@hotmail.com) or Gray Settle (gsettle@gmail.com).

Tax deductible contributions can be made on this site and will be held in a restricted fund of the USSRC Education Foundation for the creation of the memorial.

This database will be available on a kiosk next to the memorial that will also give the location of the individual's engraved name on the base that surrounds the memorial.

The space exploration memorial is planned in three phases based on contributions. The first phase will include the pool with the base engraved with the names around it in chronological order. The second adds fountain capability showing the relative total power of 5 major rockets that were built at MSFC. The third phase has multiple fountains showing more detail about the rockets including the engine layout with scaled size and thrust. This will be the only space exploration memorial that exists in the world containing the names of those who designed and built these major rockets and spacecraft that have been the heart of America's space program.

Questions should be sent to Rick Chappell (rick.chappell@vanderbilt.edu) or Parker Counts(parkercounts@knology.net).

Space Exploration Memorial Employee Data Base Subcommittee



The committee to develop the list of all past and present Marshall employees (1960 – present time) has been hard at work since February, attempting to locate an official list only to find that one doesn't exist. However, they were able to obtain partial lists from different sources including UAH Archives, MSFC phone books, Human Resources, NASA Headquarters Applications Office and personal knowledge of committee members and MRA. So far, 21,000 names have been collected and the search continues. There are handwritten cards on each employee that started to work from 1960 to 1974, before automation. Five committee members gained access to the cards that contain PAI. They began the tedious task of going through the cards, searching for new names and double checking the accuracy of names already collected. They have completed the task of reviewing approximately 11,000 cards that yielded 3,400 new names. Six members continue to go through phone books and are finding additional names.

A kiosk containing the database was set up at USSRC in time for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Visitors could look up names to ensure employees they know were included. Business cards were given out with the MRA new website giving them the opportunity to add information, photos, and bios, if desired.

The sub-committee is led by Sandra Turner. Members are Parker Counts, Rick Chappell, Gray Settle, Danny Hightower, Dom Amatore, Ralph Hoodless, Mary Spaulding, Jean Payne, Annette Tingle, Linda Posey, Carol Byler, Jan Zielinski, Weldon Wallis, Barbara Shannon, Janice Young, Shirley Ellis, Bennie Jacks, Heidi Collier and Jack Stokes.

SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit the website at www.marshallretirees.org to be sure your name and bio information is in the database and is accurate. Also, you can check the database for your coworkers, especially those that may no longer be with us. Enter the correct information. If you are having difficulty with the program, email Gray Settle at gsettle@gmail.com or call him at 256 682-0334.



2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

2019 dues are now delinquent. Dues for 2020 will be due beginning January 1, 2020. Dues are \$30 per year and may be paid by mailing a check, made to MSFC Retirees Association, to: MSFC Retirees Association, P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, AL 35815, or by paying at the December 10th Social.

Membership in the Association is open to former or retired MSFC and other NASA Center employees. New retirees are automatically offered a free membership for the remainder of the year in which they retire. If retirement occurs after the first day of September, membership will be free for the remainder of the current year and for the entire upcoming year. Spouses of deceased MRA members may attain membership status with membership dues waived.

If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, please remember to let **Mary Spaulding** know by e-mailing her at md_spaulding@comcast.net or calling 256-883-2228 so we can keep our records up to date.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Linda (Jan) Zielinski

Jeffrey D. Bland

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Gerald Smith, is pleased to present the slate of officers for the upcoming term (Beginning January 2020 – End of Year 2022). The slate will be presented at the December 10th social, followed by call for nominations from the floor, followed by voting by the full membership:

PRESIDENT: Rick Chappell

VICE PRESIDENT: Steve Cash

SECRETARY: Bennie Jacks

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Deledia Perry

TREASURER: Gray Settle

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE CURRENT OFFICERS FOR GIVING OF THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES TO MRA OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS:

PRESIDENT: Parker Counts

VICE PRESIDENT: Rick Chappell

SECRETARY: Bennie Jacks

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Deledia Perry

TREASURER; Linda Dinges



MSFC Holiday Reception

The 2019 MSFC Holiday Reception will be on December 5th, from 3:30 pm, in Building 4316, MSFC Activities Building. All NASA retirees are invited!

31st Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner and Awards

National Space Club Recognizes Jack Lee

The National Space Club has served as host of the annual von Braun Memorial Dinner for 31 years. Jack Lee served as President of the Board of the National Space Club for many years and chaired its von Braun Memorial Dinner Awards Committee for a number of years. He played a crucial role in establishing the von Braun Symposium, the nation's premier gathering of leaders from government, industry and academia to discuss key issues in space exploration. To perpetually remember and honor his lifetime of leadership and service to the community, the Community Service Award has been renamed the Jack Lee Service Award.



Pictured left to right: National Space Club President Charles Scales, presents plaque to Jean Lee, and her son, Patrick Manning

31st Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner and Awards

National Space Club Presents Astronautics Engineering Award to Brooks Moore



Brooks Moore with Hoot Gibson, Master of Ceremonies

Brooks Moore was awarded the Astronautics Engineering Award for his outstanding contributions to U. S. leadership in the field of rocketry and astronautics, including key technical and leadership roles with the historic Redstone, Jupiter and Saturn launch vehicle programs. He was one of the first young American engineers hired to work with von Braun and his key specialists from Germany. With Brooks directing the design of the guidance and control systems, the team developed the missile, named Jupiter. He also helped with the first American satellite and the team launched Explorer 1 in 1958. In 1969, Brooks was selected to become Director of Astronautics Laboratory, making him one of only two American engineers to become a laboratory director.

A few days each week, Brooks can be found at the USSRC, volunteering as a docent.

31st Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner



USSRC docents: (L – R) Jack Stokes, Linda Dinges, Heidi Collier, Craig Sumter, Ann Towry, John Reaves and Sandra Turner. This group staffed the Registration Table for the Dinner



Dick Richardson, Jan Davis, Sandy Coleman and her husband, Guy



Rick and Brenda Chappell

31st Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner



David and Diana King



John and Sara Thomas



Charles and Bunnie Scales



Linda and Ken Fernandez



Kenny Mitchell and Bonita Mitchell

Spacelab Semi-Annual Reunion held in October 2019



Statement from Bill Lokken:

These people should be proud of what they achieved on the Spacelab program on which they dedicated many years of their working lives. These folks took an unproven manned spacecraft and turned it into a platform that could safely perform serious, multidiscipline science investigations in a comfortable environment for humans. It was a forerunner of Space Station. They developed the processes and methods for integrating science instruments, some of which were proprietary, into a flight vehicle and operating them safely with minimum crew time and with all the constraints that spaceflight entails. The experience and talent of this group are immeasurable. These folks managed 36 Spacelab flights over 17 years, a fantastic record! That is certainly a record that will forever bind this team together.

UAH's Apollo Archives Vital to Researchers

Focus, the magazine of UAH, recently featured an article about Reagan Grimsley, the Louis Salmon Library's head of special collections and archives, and his work involving space history.

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the moon landing, Reagan and his staff held an open house to introduce the public to the work they are doing to preserve the documents from the Apollo era. The collection includes files from Dr. Lundquist, Dr. Stuhlinger, David Christiansen, Konrad Dannenberg, and Rep. Bob Jones, to name a few. MRA members are encouraged to make arrangements to have their collections donated to UAH. The library is open to the public to conduct space history research.



Semi-Annual Reunion of the 9th Floor Ladies



Mary Spaulding and Nancy Guire organize a semi-annual luncheon of ladies who provided administrative support to Dr. von Braun and his staff. A spring luncheon is scheduled to coincide with Dr. von Braun's birthday (March 23rd).

Pictured (L-R, front row): AnneMarie Hall, Mary Spaulding, Carol Byler, Evelyn Staples, Gail Ralls. (L-R, back row): Shirley Ellis, Jan Zielinski, Paula Rainey, Wanda Reed, Jean Lee, and Gail Ralls' granddaughter



Obituaries of *Marshall Retirees*

Atherton, James R., 84, of Huntsville, died Sept. 4, 2019. Retired 1989.

Bailey, Doyce R., 86, of Huntsville, died Sept. 28, 2019.

Beam, Eugene (Gene), 86, of Huntsville, died Oct. 7, 2019. Retired 2004.

Bearden, Gene, 86, of Arab, died Oct. 1, 2019.

Boehm, Loudene, 93, of Huntsville, died Oct. 21, 2019.

Choate, Bernice K., 96, of Huntsville, died Oct. 8, 2019.

DeWille, Thomas F., 76, of Huntsville, died Oct. 21, 2019.

Dykes, Gordon W., 95, of Huntsville, died Aug. 22, 2019.

Harper, Edward (Max), 97, of Macon, GA died Sept. 7, 2019.

McDonough, George F., 91, of Huntsville, died Oct. 29, 2019. Retired 1995 as Director, S&E.

Moon, William Allen, 87, of Huntsville, died Nov. 2, 2019.

Newman, Charles D, (Don), 87, of Huntsville, died Aug. 21, 2019.

Pace, Robert E., 92, of Huntsville, died Sept. 25, 2019.

Purcell, Glyndon K. (Loftis), 84, of Huntsville, died Oct. 24, 2019.

Rankin, Thomas Orlander, 81, of Huntsville, died Oct. 20, 2019.

Rawls, Francis Collier, 80, of Huntsville, died Oct. 11, 2019.

Reiger, Carl J., 88, of Huntsville, died Sept. 20, 2019.

Steele, Bobby Gene, 83, of Huntsville, died Sept.20, 2019.

Vaccaro, Michael J., of Huntsville, died Nov. 5, 2019.

Weesner, Ronald G., 86, of Huntsville, died Aug. 29, 2019. Retired 1993.

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Huntsville, AL 35815

MRA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PAST PRESIDENTS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (with e-mail addresses)

OFFICERS: 2017-2019

President: Parker Counts, parkercounts@knology.net

Vice-President: Rick Chappell, rick.chappell@vanderbilt.edu

Secretary: Bennie Jacks, benniejacks@att.net

Assistant Secretary: Deledia Perry, deeperry99@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Dinges, linda.l.dinges@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS: 2017-2019

Ken Fernandez, kfern_2000@comcast.net

Jean Payne, clovis.j.payne@nasa.gov

Chris Crumbly, chris@spaceroc.com

Joann DeGross, joanndegross02@comcast.net

Harvey Shelton, hndshelton@comcast.net

John Thomas, johnwt@knology.net

PAST PRESIDENTS/STANDING BOARD MEMBERS:

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Gerald Smith, gerald.smith6@comcast.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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Newsletter: Jean Lee, Bjeanlee@aol.com

Editor's note: If you have articles of interest, photographs or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact me at 256-852-7336, or e-mail: Bjeanlee@aol.com Jean Lee, Newsletter Editor